



# Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

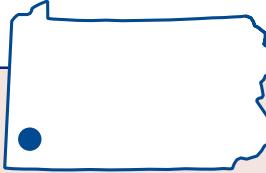
## Washington County Authority, PA

### EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

### Community Description

The Washington County Authority was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Located in southwestern Pennsylvania, Washington County (population 9,756) was part of the once-dominant American steel industry. Along with the collapse of the steel and other heavy industries, Washington County was hurt by the closing of the state-owned 1,200-acre Western Center complex in 2000. The former hospital facility had been one of the county's primary employers, and left hundreds unemployed. Most of the complex was sold to develop upscale residential areas, recreational facilities, and new high-technology businesses. The remaining 221 acres, including 33 buildings, represent the county's largest concentration of



### Cleanup Grant



#### \$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the Washington County Authority for a brownfields cleanup grant. Grant funds will be used to clean up the Administration Building in the 221-acre Western Center complex, a former state-owned hospital facility. Funds will also be used to develop reuse plans. The building is contaminated with asbestos, and possibly lead and PCBs.

### Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

EPA Region 3 Brownfields Team  
215-814-3129

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bfs/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: Washington County Authority, PA  
724-250-6418

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

brownfields. The presence of toxic substances such as asbestos is a vital health issue to the county's predominantly young population, especially those of child-bearing age. The county plans to redevelop the complex into a "Main Street" neighborhood community, with new homes, retail space, restaurants, entertainment venues, and greenspace. The Administration Building will be redeveloped as a cultural and educational center, providing continuing education and training programs. Redevelopment may create more than 2,000 new jobs, and generate millions of dollars in private investment.